



POST OFFICE BOX 110034 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11211

Updates for February 14th

26 Jan - Response to Daily News attack on Oscar López Rivera

NYC's "The Daily News" recently ran a slant piece on Oscar López Rivera and Jan Susler from Chicago's People's Law Office wrote the following response.

MORE:

Oscar López Rivera, a 69-year-old decorated Vietnam veteran, has spent 31 years in U.S. prison for his commitment to the independence of Puerto Rico. He has the dubious distinction of being the longest held pro-independence prisoner in Puerto Rico's history of seeking self-determination - and thousands preceded him. Convicted of seditious conspiracy in Chicago, he is serving a sentence of 70 years, although he was not convicted of harming or killing anyone.

If you read the *New York Daily News* article published this year on January 24th, on the 37th anniversary of the bombing of Fraunces Tavern, you wouldn't know this . . . and you would be left with the impression that López Rivera should remain in prison because he is somehow responsible for that tragic action. That is, sadly, what the FBI has led the victims to believe, and it is most certainly the weapon wielded by the FBI in its unceasing efforts to convince the public, the U.S. Parole Commission, and the President, that López Rivera should remain in prison.

López Rivera has denied participation in the 1975 tragedy at Fraunces Tavern. There is no evidence to connect him to it. If the FBI had such evidence, it would surely prosecute him - but in the 37 years since, it has not. Instead, it has waged a campaign of guilt by association, using its bully pulpit to prolong his imprisonment, and thereby punish him for his commitment to the independence of Puerto Rico.

In fact, during his 1981 trial for seditious conspiracy, López Rivera presented no defense in court. Prosecutors risked little, if anything, in charging him on this case. They did not charge him - again, because there simply is not a shred of evidence that could even remotely link him to the Fraunces Tavern event. The *New York Daily News* has done its readers - and more importantly, truth and justice - a great disservice by implying there is somehow some kind of link between López Rivera and this case, a link that somehow has mysteriously eluded prosecutors, the courts and the FBI for more than 31 years.

A campaign for the release of López Rivera and his co-defendants, which enjoyed broad support throughout Puerto Rican civil society and among the international human rights and faith community, resulted in President Clinton's 1999 offer to commute the sentences of most of them. Most were offered immediate release, but López Rivera would have to serve an additional 10 years behind bars. The others accepted the president's offer, were welcomed as returning heroes in Puerto Rico and Puerto Rican communities in the U.S., and for the past 12 years have lived productive, law-abiding lives. Out of concern that the President's offer did not include all those in prison for their commitment to independence, López Rivera rejected the offer. Had he accepted, he would have been released in September of 2009. Those excluded from the president's offer have since been released - López Rivera is now the only one still in prison from the Chicago seditious conspiracy cases of the 1980s.

That campaign continues to advocate for López Rivera's release from prison. Recent activities in Puerto Rico include mass demonstrations during President Obama's June visit to the Island, calling for his release - and elected officials personally asking the President to release him - ; on the occasion of López Rivera's 69th birthday, the Catholic Archbishop presiding over a mass, and a gathering of representatives from every sector of civil society calling for his release; and students painting murals featuring his face and the message "Freedom Now!" for López Rivera.

In the proud United States tradition of exercising the constitutional power of pardon, three U.S. Presidents have commuted the sentences of Puerto Rican political prisoners: President Truman in 1952, President Carter in 1979, and President Clinton in 1999. President Obama should not be fooled by the FBI's campaign of untruths.

For more information about the campaign for Oscar Lopez Rivera's release, contact the National Boricua Human Rights Network at www.boricuahumanrights.org.

29 Jan - 'People Power' Pries Abu-Jamal from Punitive Administrative Custody

Linn Washington, Jr. has been doing a lot of reporting about Mumia Abu-Jamal, especially since the events that lead to his being released from death row. The below is an evaluation of how Mumia finally made it to general population.

MORE:

He's out!

Credit 'people power' for getting internationally known inmate Mumia Abu-Jamal sprung from his apparently punitive, seven-week placement in 'The Hole.'

For the first time since receiving a controversial death sentence in 1982 for killing a Philadelphia policeman, the widely acclaimed author-activist finds himself in general population, a prison housing status far less restrictive than the solitary confinement of death row.

Inmates in general population have full privileges to visitation, telephone and commissary, along with access to all prison programs and services, all things denied or severely limited to convicts on death row waiting to be killed by the state.

In early December 2011, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections officials, after the federal courts had removed his death penalty and the Philadelphia District Attorney opted not to attempt to re-try the penalty phase in hopes of winning a new death sentence, placed Abu-Jamal in Administrative Custody (a/k/a 'The Hole').

Administrative Custody is confinement in a Spartan isolation cell where conditions are more draconian than even death row.

The release of Abu-Jamal from Administrative Custody into general population on Friday, January 27, 2012 followed with a multi-layered protest campaign by his supporters worldwide that included flooding Pennsylvania prison authorities with telephone calls, collecting petitions containing over 5,000 signatures and a complaint filed with United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture.

Supporters condemned the Administrative Custody placement, calling it retaliation for Abu-Jamal's having successfully defeated the state's efforts to execute him. Abu-Jamal, a model prisoner, did not meet any of the 11 specific circumstances listed in Pennsylvania DoC regulations dictating administrative custody placement.

Prison staff evaluations of Abu-Jamal since his December death row removal, sources said, listed him as "polite [and] respectful." Those positive evaluations did not evidence any of the incorrigibility or other serious misbehaviors that usually trigger AC placement.

"When people are united around an issue they have power. This is the power of the people all races in many places," said Pam Africa, director of the Philadelphia-based International Concerned Friends and Family of Mumia Abu-Jamal.

Abu-Jamal, in a statement released through his wife Wadiya Jamal, thanked his supporters for their hard work. "I am no longer on death row, no longer in the hole, I'm in population," Abu-Jamal's statement noted. "This is only Part One and I thank you for the work you've done. But the struggle is for freedom!"

Media reports quoted Pennsylvania DoC spokespersons confirming Abu-Jamal's placement in general population at Mahanoy Prison, a medium security facility about 100 miles from Philadelphia in central Pennsylvania where he was transferred last December from another prison in western Pennsylvania that houses the state's death row.

DoC spokespersons had previously declined comment on Abu-Jamal's Administrative Custody placement, citing regulations covering inmate privacy.

Prison officials advanced ever-changing rationales for keeping Abu-Jamal in AC at Mahanoy, including the curious claim of that they were waiting for legal clarification that the courts had formally replaced Abu-Jamal's death sentence with life in prison.

That Kafkaesque claim contradicted the DoC's own documents specifically acknowledging that federal courts had vacated the death sentence (thus requiring a default life sentence) and Philadelphia's DA having dropped appeals to reinstate the death sentence.

Typical of the way that Abu-Jamal's long-running case has shone a bright light on grievous abuses within the criminal justice system, his AC placement exposed what independent prison monitors have long contended is a dirty secret of Pennsylvania's prison system: authorities using Administrative Custody isolation to maliciously penalize inmates who are not violating prison rules.

Bret Grote, a spokesman for the Pennsylvania Human Rights Coalition, said during a media interview that prison authorities misuse Administrative Custody as repression against inmates for their political activism, their complaining about poor conditions in prison, their roles as jailhouse lawyers and often for racist reasons.

Grote said Pennsylvania's DoC holds approximately 2,500 of its fifty-thousand-plus prisoners in solitary confinement on any given day. That's five percent of the total.

"Andre Jacobs and Carrington Keys, two members of a group of prisoners known as the Dallas 6 [Dallas is a Pennsylvania prison] have been held in solitary for approximately 11 and nine years respectively as a result of their speaking out against torture and other human rights violations inside the state's control units," Grote said during an interview with Prison Radio.

Philadelphian Russell "Maroon" Shoats, a former Black Panther Party and Black Liberation Army member, has spent 30 of his 40 years in prison inside an isolation cell despite not having any prison infractions, said his daughter Theresa Shoats during a press conference in Philadelphia held one day before Abu-Jamal's release.

"Prison officials keep my Dad in solitary instead of releasing him into general population because they say he is a leader. My Dad turns 70 this year and he has medical problems, some from being in solitary for so long. Keeping him in solitary is unfair," Shoats said about her father, who was convicted of killing a Philadelphia policeman.

"My Dad says he encourages young inmates to read to stay sane. Why does that make him too dangerous for general population? He told me that 15 young men hung themselves in SCI Greene during a one-year period."

King Downing, director of the American Friends Service Center's Healing Justice Program, said prison authorities nationwide misuse solitary confinement to "silence political prisoners." Downing hosted the press conference where Shoats spoke alongside other speakers representing Abu-Jamal.

Last October, Juan Mendez, the UN's Special Rapporteur on Torture, called on all countries worldwide to ban the use of solitary confinement of inmates as punishment and/or an extortion technique, except in very exceptional circumstances.

Mendez cited scientific studies establishing the mental and medical damage arising from prolonged isolation. His report stated that an estimated 20,000-to-25,000 persons regularly occupy solitary confinement cells across America.

Recently a federal jury awarded a New Mexico man \$22-million for violations of his constitutional rights arising from his having spent two years in solitary confinement in a county jail in Albuquerque following a drunk driving arrest. Although during that entire time he was never even charged or brought to trial, authorities in Dona Ana County New Mexico vow to appeal that verdict, one of the largest damage judgments in history for illegal incarceration.

30 Jan - 12 Arrested at Manhattan March for Oakland Protesters

Twelve protesters were arrested Sunday night on a march through Lower Manhattan to show support for Occupy protesters in Oakland, where police violence erupted the night before when demonstrators tried to take over an empty convention center.

MORE:

The crowd in New York, about 300 strong, occasionally surged into streets, and on at least two occasions someone in the crowd threw a bottle, apparently aimed at police officers who accompanied the march on foot and in vehicles. The police plunged into the crowd several times.

Three men were charged with assault and one with criminal weapons possession, the police said. Most of the rest of those arrested were charged with disorderly conduct. Three of the 12 people arrested were women. One officer sustained an injured finger.

The demonstration began just after 7 p.m. in Washington Square, where hundreds of people assembled near a fountain, beating drums and waving flags.

A man stood on the lip of the fountain and announced: "We're going to get the backs of our brothers and sisters in the Bay Area," adding, "Let's march."

The crowd headed north on Fifth Avenue chanting "New York is Oakland; Oakland is New York." The marchers turned west on 14th Street, then flowed into the roadway on Avenue of the Americas. One man dragged plastic construction barrels into the roadway as police cars and vans followed the march, sirens blaring.

Officers chased several young men on 17th Street after one of them dragged a wooden sawhorse into the road. The men got away, but soon afterward an officer grabbed another man walking on a sidewalk who was wearing a balaclava.

A few moments later, on Park Avenue, a man wearing dark clothes and wearing no visible badge grabbed a woman by the arm and threw her to the ground. Uniformed officers arrested her and a second woman as other officers blocked the lens of a newspaper photographer attempting to document the arrests.

As they were led away in handcuff, the two told onlookers that they had done nothing to deserve being arrested. The woman thrown to the ground identified herself as Jessica Lemmer, 21, and said that the man in the dark clothes had thrown her down after she told him not to push her.

At the corner of 13th Street and Second Avenue, the police dragged a man from the crowd, accusing him of having thrown a bottle.

Just before 10 p.m., the marchers arrived on 9th Street just east of Avenue B and congregated in front of an empty former school building that had housed the Charas / El Bohio Cultural and Community Center before the group was [evicted ten years ago](#) by a developer, Gregg L. Singer, who had bought the building at a city auction.

"This was once a vibrant community center," a man said as others pounded on a tall plywood fence that sealed the empty building off from the sidewalk. "The people in Oakland wanted to create a community center."

A security guard emerged from inside the building and peered down from an elevated plaza at those outside. A man tried to clamber over the fence, but police officers quickly pulled him down and arrested him as a helicopter with a spotlight hovered overhead.

By 10:30 p.m., most of the marchers had moved to Tompkins Square. One man strummed a mandolin. Another tapped on a drum. Several others stretched out on an asphalt pathway, using backpacks as pillows and gazing at the sky as a line of police officers stood at a nearby entrance to the park.

31 Jan – Walter Bond Transferred To Marion CMU + Updates

It doesn't come as much of a surprise that outspoken Animal Liberation Front political prisoner Walter Bond has been transferred to one of the Bureau of Prisons' Communication Management Units. That also doesn't make it any better. Dubbed "Little Guantanamo" by many prisoners, these units are incredibly restrictive. We've also included other updates, including a new address, regarding Walter below.

MORE:

Walter Bond is being held in a new, controversial type of U.S. prison called a Communication Management Unit (CMU), which was set up by the Bureau of Prisons during the administration of George W. Bush.

<http://ccrjustice.org/cmu-factsheet> The prisoners held in a CMU are considered terrorists by the U.S. government and their every means of communication is severely restricted, regulated and monitored. When Walter arrived at the Marion CMU, he was given a notice explaining the official reason why he is there, "Your current offenses of conviction are for Use of Fire or Explosives to Damage or Destroy Property in Interstate Commerce, Force, Violence and Threats Involving an Animal Enterprise, and Arson Damaging Property in Interstate Commerce. Your offense conduct including significant communication with and providing assistance to the Animal Liberation Front (ALF), a group considered a domestic terrorist organization and in which you have claimed membership. Your communication with the community requires heightened controls and monitoring." Part of the rules are that Walter may not speak of anyone in the third party, or receive third party information about others. He asks that you write to him directly, rather than ask someone else to pass along a message or question. Walter must formally request permission beforehand from his jailers for each person he writes to, calls or from whom he receives a visit. He has access to a monitored form of email, so you can include your email address, if that is of interest.

Although the CMU is undeniably and unrelentingly invasive, punitive, cruel and unjust, Walter reports, "Since I arrived here my sense of serenity has increased. I do not feel shaken or erratic in my emotions... I see how fortunate I am. My prison sentence is so short compared to many, my hardships in life so few compared to so many others."

**Walter Bond 37096-013
USP Marion
Post Office Box 1000
Marion, Illinois 62959**

Walter's book wish list:

<http://amzn.com/w/W7P09VVVUSYT>

From Walter:

"Well here I am in the CMU. I like it here waaay better than county jail! It's actually much nicer than I thought. The men here are very nice and made me feel welcome right away. I have a single cell I can go outside whenever I like etc. So part of the rules here are that I am not allowed to speak of anyone third party, or receive third party information about others. So I will NOT be asking you to pass anything along. If anyone asks about me or wants to know how I am tell them to write me directly."

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It is the one year anniversary of A.L.F. Lone Wolf Walter Bond's February 11, 2011 sentencing date at the US

District Court in Denver, Colorado. One year since this one man stood up, in handcuffs and jail clothes, and faced the judge who was about to penalize him for breaking laws that enable and promote Animal slavery and commodification. And when he stood up, and before he received his sentence, Walter Bond said this:

Statement to the court in Denver, Colorado, February 11, 2011

I'm here today because I burnt down the Sheepskin Factory in Glendale, CO, a business that sells pelts, furs and other dead Animal skins. I know many people think I should feel remorse for what I've done. I guess this is the customary time where I'm suppose to grovel and beg for mercy. I assure you if that's how I felt I would. But, I am not sorry for anything I have done. Nor am I frightened by this court's authority. Because any system of law that values the rights of the oppressor over the down trodden is an unjust system. And though this court has real and actual power, I question its morality. I doubt the court is interested in the precautions that I took to not harm any person or by-stander and even less concerned with the miserable lives that sheep, cows and mink had to endure, unto death, so that a Colorado business could profit from their confinement, enslavement, and murder.

Obviously, the owners and employees of the sheepskin factory do not care either or they would not be involved in such a sinister and macabre blood trade. So I will not waste my breath where it will only fall on deaf ears. That's why I turned to illegal direct action to begin with, because you do not care. No matter how much we Animal Rights activists talk or reason with you, you do not care. Well, Mr. Livaditis (owner of the Sheepskin Factory), I don't care about you. There is no common ground between people like you and me. I want you to know that no matter what this court sentences me to today, you have won nothing! Prison is no great hardship to me. In a society that values money over life, I consider it an honor to be a prisoner of war, the war against inter-species slavery and objectification! I also want you to know that I will never willingly pay you one dollar, not one! I hope your business fails and you choke to death on every penny you profit from Animal murder! I hope you choke on it and burn in hell!

To my supporters, I wish to say thank you for standing behind me and showing this court and these Animal exploiters that we support our own and that we as a movement are not going to apologize for having a sense of urgency. We are not going to put the interests of commerce over sentience! And we will never stop educating, agitating and confronting those responsible for the death of our Mother Earth and her Animal Nations. My Vegan sisters and brothers our lives are not our own. Selfishness is the way of gluttons, perverts and purveyors of injustice. It has been said all it takes for evil to conquer is for good people to do nothing. Conversely, all it takes to stop the enslavement, use, abuse and murder of other than human Animals is the resolve to fight on their behalf!

Do what you can, do what you must, be Vegan warriors and true Animal defenders and never compromise with their murderers and profiteers. The Animal Liberation Front is the answer. Seldom has there been such a personally powerful and internationally effective movement in human history. You cannot join the A.L.F. but you can become the A.L.F. And it was the proudest and most powerful thing I have ever done. When you leave this courtroom today don't be dismayed by my incarceration. All the ferocity and love in my heart still lives on. Every time someone liberates an Animal and smashes their cage, it lives on! Every time an activist refuses to bow down to laws that protect murder, it lives on! And it lives on every time the night sky lights up ablaze with the ruins of another Animal exploiters' business!

That's all Your Honor, I am ready to go to prison.

31 Jan – Jalil Muntaqim Write about Recent Sentence – New Blog Entry

We reported last time about Jalil Muntaqim being sentenced to six months in the SHU, aka solitary, for allegedly having a photo that demonstrated unlawful organization, even though that photo was sent through the regular mail and was reviewed by the prison's correspondence department. Jalil has written about the series of events leading up to the hearing and also has a new blog entry that we've included.

MORE:

The Facts of Disciplinary Charges:
105.14 Unauthorized Organization
And Disciplinary Hearing of 1/13/12-1/23/12

On the morning of 1/5/12, three officers searched D-37-32, the cell where I was being held. As I observed the cell search, Correctional Officer Wagner removed my photo album and took it with him at the conclusion of the cell search. At approximately 11:20AM, Officer Wagner returned the photo album, absent the 14 photos. On 1/6/12, I was issued a non-confinement Tier III misbehavior report for violation of 105.14 Unauthorized Organization.

On 1/5/12, during a scheduled counselor interview that I had requested that afternoon, Counselor Schiffer called the correspondence department while I sat in his office, and inquired about the photos confiscated from my photo album. He was told by correspondence personnel that the photos should not have been confiscated since they had been approved by correspondence for me to receive. Mr. Krumph refused to allow me to call Correctional Counselor Schiffer to testify on my behalf on 1/23/12.

On 1/13/12, Superintendent Mark L. Bradt designated Mr. George Krumph to conduct the disciplinary hearing. At that time I informed Mr. Krumph I wanted to call for witnesses Correctional Counselor Schiffer, the correspondence officer, and Sergeant Cochran. Mr. Krumph then postponed the hearing so he could speak to my witnesses.

The correspondence officer would have addressed during the disciplinary hearing whether all procedures pursuant to Directive #4422—Inmate Correspondence were fulfilled, permitting me to receive the photos. Furthermore, he would have addressed the proper procedure for the process of contraband photos in accord with Directive #4422 to be disposed of if found to be contraband. Mr. Krumph refused to allow me to call the correspondence officer to testify on my behalf on 1/23/12.

Sergeant Cochran, who had been acting as Attica's "gang intelligence officer," would have testified as to what should be considered an "unauthorized organization" from his years of intelligence experience at Attica. Also, he would be able to attest to the fact he was present during the processing of my personal property from Auburn. At that time, no contraband photos or literature were found in my personal property, including anything pertaining to "unauthorized organization." Mr. Krumph refused to allow Sergeant Cochran to testify on my behalf on 1/23/12.

On 1/23/12, Mr. Krumph recommended the disciplinary hearing after the postponement on 1/13/12 to speak to my witnesses. He provided a form for me to sign indicating an extension had been secured for the time delay in conducting the hearing. I respectfully declined to sign the form. Mr. Krumph then summarily denied all three of my witnesses to testify, and over my objections called Lt. Simmons and introduced him as an expert on "unauthorized organizations." Lt. Simmons reviewed the 14 photos, immediately declaring them representative of an unauthorized organization... Lt. Simmons never stated what made him an expert; he never identified what in the photos made them unauthorized organizations; he never described or indicated what was in the photos that was incriminating. He just looked at them and parroted that they were indeed "unauthorized organization." It was obvious that Lt. Simmons was called specifically to violate each and every opportunity for me to refute the disciplinary charges, having them dismissed and the photos returned to me.

I objected to Lt. Simmons testimony and proceeded to present how my defense against the charges was essentially sabotaged, not permitting me to call any of my witnesses. I then presented the Bay View newspaper received on 1/13/12 from the correspondence department. The front page showed two large photos—one of a picket sign with a large clenched fist, and the other of a young Black guy holding a protest sign in one hand, with the other hand held in the air with a clenched fist. Also, I previously offered other materials received from the correspondence department of similar nature, including the memorial ceremony programs of Cetewayo, Smitty and Karim. None of these, like the photos, had been submitted to media review or any other scrutiny for contraband by the correspondence department before being delivered to me.

Mr. Krumph did not deny or refute the 14 photos or other materials were delivered to me by the correspondence department in accord with Directive #4422. Mr. Krumph did not respond or refute that I had not violated any rule subject to correspondence in order to obtain the 14 photos. In fact, Mr. Krumph remained mute when I argued I should not be disciplined for photos the correspondence department permitted me to receive.

I objected to the entire proceedings including the harsh 6 months SHU time, loss of commissary, packages, phone calls, and good time.

I was immediately handcuffed and escorted to SHU.

It should be noted that the 14 photos depicted the memorial ceremony of Cetewayo (Michael Tabor) held at City College in March 2011, in which a Black Panther Party banner was hanging on a wall. Also, a photo at the ceremony depicted young people wearing blue and black giving clenched fist salutes. There were a couple of photos of the 14 that were of Smitty's memorial with the banner hanging on the back wall while people spoke at the podium. Nothing inflammatory was depicted—hence, the correspondence department approved them to be received.

This is pure harassment indicating the administration's propensity to flagrantly violate its own rules and regulations.

Anthony Jalil Bottom #77A-4283
Attica Correctional Facility, SHU

Contact NYS Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and Commissioner Brian Fischer to demand that the charges be dropped, that Jalil be released from SHU immediately, and that this campaign of harassment come to AN IMMEDIATE END! These charges are entirely fabricated and show premeditation on behalf of the prison administration to lock Jalil away until his next parole hearing in June and to adversely affect the outcome of that hearing.

New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman:
Office of the Attorney General
The Capitol
Albany, New York 12224-0341
(518) 474-5481

Commissioner Brian Fischer
NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision
Building 2
1220 Washington Ave
Albany, New York 12226-2050
(518) 457-8126

Who's Big Brother?

I am the absent big brother in my family. Having been in prison 40 years, my younger siblings have suffered the anguish of my absence, not being there for them at crucial times in their lives. For the most part, they understand my absence, understand the political nature of my incarceration. So, since I am the big brother in my family, I certainly don't need a Big Brother, nor does my family.

Unfortunately, President Obama does not believe that, and like former President Bill Clinton and George Bush, he has signed into law a bill that will severely undermine and erode democratic civil liberties. When Clinton was in office, in "...1985 Clinton administration Crime Bill effectively caused the criminalization of poverty, ensuring the poor, unemployed, and homeless were likely to suffer the penalties of incarceration, essentially

feeding the prison industrial complex.” (quote from Pg.291, We Are Our Own Liberators). However, President Obama took this dynamic a huge step forward, more on that in a minute.

“On May 9, 2007, President Bush issued National Security Presidential Directive 51 titled, “National Continuity Policy.” In it, he instructs the Secretary of Homeland Security to coordinate with private sector owners and operators of critical infrastructure, as appropriate, in order to provide for the delivery of essential services during an emergency. This policy (Presidential decree) federalized an FBI program of deputizing corporate business representatives, under the auspices of InfraGuard, as citizen-spies for the FBI and Homeland Security in preparation for the implementation of martial law.” (Pg. 296, Liberators). Correspondingly, it should be noted, on 12/30/11, the New York Times reported in “Court Upholds Law That Protects Companies Aiding U.S. Surveillance,” that the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, “... upheld the constitutionality of a federal law that grants immunity to telecommunications companies that assist the federal government in conducting surveillance of American citizens.” In essence, AT&T, Sprint, Nextel and Verizon Communications are using their mobile phone services to maintain federal surveillance of U.S. citizens for the federal government, with immunity.

Most recently, it was reported that Mayor Bloomberg of NYC is permitting infra-red cameras to be posted on street corners to effectively “x-ray” pedestrians to determine if any are carrying weapons from their body heat. Not unlike what is at airports, these high-tech surveillance cameras are being placed on city streets.

Now, when President Obama recently signed into law the “2012 National Defense Authorization Act,” he virtually ensured the most brutal and repressive segment of the prison industrial complex grows. Under this new law, the U.S. government allows the military to detain any American citizen “suspected” of being a “terrorist” without trial; for U.S. citizens difficult to apprehend to target them for summary execution, i.e., assassination; to arrest U.S. citizens video recording police actions; allow the police to use GPS devices to track the movement of thousands of people suspected of criminal activity; and permit police/military use of aerial surveillance drones to covertly monitor U.S. citizens.

When all of these corporate/government legal maneuvers are considered in their collective operations, the only conclusion we can make is the police state is here, and the prison industrial complex is the last rung in state repression. It is obvious that Big Brother has plans for the family of U.S. citizens that ultimately put everyone in jeopardy of losing their freedom. As a Cointelpro/Newkill victim, this is something I know from first hand experience!

So, Family, let’s get organized to challenge telecommunication corporations, city governments, and Presidential decrees that severely deny civil liberties and support the advent of fascism.

31 Jan - Occupy Oakland Inmates at Santa Rita Jail Attacked

In the aftermath of the mass arrests of Occupy Oakland protesters-- and whoever else happened to be on the wrong street at the wrong time-- on Jan. 28 in Oakland, there have been loads of reports and rumors about brutality inflicted on those arrested.

MORE:

Most of those arrested were held in Santa Rita jail.

My observations:

I spent 20 hours in jail, and I saw some cruel treatment. I saw people suffering after being denied medication. I saw people with allergies to the food that was provided refused any substitute and unable to eat, sometimes for more than 24 hours. I saw people crammed into holding cells meant for groups a third their size, so that some people had to remain standing, sometimes for more than 24 hours. As many arrestees were wearing clothing coated in tear gas and pepper spray, those chemicals continued to waft through cells and affect all present.

Reports:

I have reports directly from sources of arrested occupiers being beat up in jail with police batons. At least 20 people were ziptied, meaning their hands were cuffed behind their backs-- and more often than not, if they happen to be cuffed too tightly and their hands go numb and even blue, police won't loosen them-- for more than eight hours. I know that some people who were denied access to a restroom ended up sitting in their own vomit and urine for at least four hours in some cases.

UPDATE Another report from **Joshua Clover, a professor of English at UC Davis**, who was released Monday night, :

"I was held for 53 hours for a misdemeanor charge which every single person here, and there, knows will never be brought, and indeed which will be met with a class action suit for wrongful arrest that the city of Oakland will be compelled to settle. I have a perforated peptic ulcer. Early on in the stay I requested non—prescription care — liquid antacid, which the jail keeps on hand — when I began to have an ulcer attack, which is to say, when I began to bleed internally. I was not given such care until an attorney was able to intervene by phone many hours later. I received one capful, which was mildly effective for about three hours. Further requests were ignored. As many will know, a bleeding ulcer attack is both painful and potentially fatal"

UPDATE When I questioned Alameda County Sheriff's Department Public Information Officer Sergeant JD Nelson about this, he responded that "[Clover] was obviously seen by a medical person, and they said that was enough medicine."

But according to Clover, via an email, "The one time that I received medication, a deputy came to the cell door accompanied by someone who may have been a nurse, holding a capful of antacid. I asked for more but was not given it." And was Clover seen by a medical professional to determine the correct amount of medication? He says, "Definitely not."

Also according to Clover, "Food was often not provided for periods of up to 14 hours. For a long period I shared a cell with 27 other people; it was about ten by ten feet. For a period I was in a cell labeled 'Maximum Occupancy: Two.' There were ten of us, three very sick. We stood. One of the people slumped over on the toilet, that being the alternative to standing."

UPDATE

"Three people I know were denied medication for HIV infections while being held for multiple days, which is a life-threatening choice made by the county"

"two women were denied anti-depressants that they had with them when they went to jail"

UPDATE According to an anonymous source, "My 12x12 cell had 28 people. There was a toilet, a concrete bench, and enough hard floor space for three or four of us to sleep at a time. A girl in the cell across from ours told the guards she needed Lexapro or she would go into withdrawl. They ignored the request. One of my cellmates was HIV-positive. When I last saw him at 2 a.m. on Monday morning he had not yet been given his medications. As I exited the jail I saw a woman who had just been released lying on the floor. She was having a seizure and being tended to by a couple of firemen."

UPDATE From Alyssa Eisenberg, who has multiple sclerosis:

"I take my medication at least twice a day...without it, the pain is, everything kind of goes numb and tightens up. Sometimes I can't even see without it. When had to sign the booking form about noon i couldn't even see it, my vision was so blurry...I was told they don't give meds to people that are going to be cited and released, only to people that are going to stay and get charged."

Unconfirmed reports:

[Daily Kos](#) quotes an anonymous source who reports that "prisoners from the Oakland Commune were being denied medications (some had seizures) while the guards said they didn't care if they died. Some people were brutally beaten. They put tear gas in the vents of my cell twice."

According to Occupy Oakland media spokesperson Omar Yassin, a report that someone was tear gassed in the jail's hallway is likely credible.

Then there's the people who were injured during the protests Jan. 28. Also according to Yassin:

At least a dozen people had welts on their faces or bodies from being beaten by clubs or shot with rubber bullets. One woman was shot in both arms with rubber bullet; one man was shot in the face with rubber bullets while holding a video camera to document the events. Several protesters were shoved to the ground and received wounds on their faces while being arrested. Police raised their rubber-bullet rifles to the faces of protesters throughout the day, threatening attacks-- a rubber bullet to the face can cause brain damage and blindness.

A spokesperson for the Alameda County Sheriff's Department refused to comment, although she did say that they've "been bombarded with calls about this all day." Shocker.

UPDATE According to Alameda County Sheriff's Department Public Information Officer Sergeant JD Nelson, no complaints of mistreatment at Santa Rita have been filed.

Nelson said that peanut butter was made available to vegans those allergic to meat, in direct contrast to what I witnessed in jail.

In response to reports that some detainees were held on buses in the Santa Rita parking lot for up to eight hours, during which time they were refused bathroom access and in some cases made to sit in their own urine and vomit, Nelson said that "Generally when they come to the jail the buses are unloaded fairly quickly. Obviously some people are going to go first, some last."

He told me that detainees were denied medication because "We do not allow them to take their medication in jail. People will try to smuggle stuff in."

When asked about reported beating in jail, Nelson replied, "I haven't gotten any reports of any skirmishes between officers and those arrested. We would report it if there was any use of force,"

According to Nelson, the Alameda County Sheriff's Office has video footage of all of the areas in the jail where arrestees were held, and, unless there was a lawsuit preventing its release, he would make the footage available to me soon. For now he said, "I don't even know if they've been developed." (Is this 1984? Not in the Orwellian sense. In the technology sense.)

1 Feb - Richmond Anarchist Jeremy Hawthorne Found Guilty

Jeremy Hawthorne, member of the Wingnut Anarchist Collective in Barton Heights, received a felony sentence of one year in jail and a \$1,300 fine for allegedly slashing the tires of seven VCU police and security vehicles.

MORE:

The case was practically written for tabloid journalism – "Anarchists Attack and Disable Police Cruisers" – and I arrived at the courthouse expecting to hear as much about the anti-authoritarian politics of the Wingnuts during the trial as I did about whether Jeremy was actually guilty.

It was not to be. Minutes before the trial began, Jeremy's court appointed attorney proposed that his residence at the Wingnut and its politics not be mentioned in front of the jury. She was worried that associating him with a high-profile anarchist group would affect the jury's perception of him negatively. The prosecuting attorney would presumably love to bring the group's not-so-subtle rhetoric into the courtroom as evidence against him.

Against expectation, the prosecution quickly agreed to the ban on politics, and what had been a powder keg was almost instantly robbed of any mainstream media relevance. Jeremy would soon be just another convicted felon.

To understand why the Commonwealth so readily agreed to omit politics from the trial and how that affected its outcome, a brief primer is in order.

Looking Back

The Wingnut regularly makes headlines in Richmond. From their participation in the occupation of Monroe Park (long before the more recent Occupy phenomenon) to their film screenings and house shows, to their appearance on the cover of Style Weekly holding rifles, one can expect to see the [collective's name in print](#) almost monthly.

It was a year ago that the state last tested its legal resolve against the Wingnut. Richmond Cop Watch, largely staffed by Wingnuts, requested and received almost every Richmond police department training manual through the Freedom of Information Act. Immediately thereafter, the RPD realized who they had given the information to and filed a law suit to retrieve the documents, citing that the information should not have been given to “known and admitted anarchists”. The [Washington Post picked up the story](#), as did [Style Weekly](#), and I produced [a 10 minute radio segment on the case](#) for Weekly Sediton.

The ACLU harshly criticized the Richmond police department for openly denying the legal right to request information based on political ideology, and they eventually gave up, dropping the suit altogether.

Between conflicts like these, and the regular activities of Cop Watch in Barton Heights [and at First Fridays](#), Jeremy and the other Wingnuts are well known to Richmond police.

Leaving Things Out

In one hypothetical scenario, we can imagine the prosecutor *wanting* the jury to know that Jeremy was a member of an anarchist group, counting on their verbal (but as of yet, not illegal) lashing out at authority in general and Richmond police specifically. But if the trial became political with this kind of past between the RPD and the Wingnut, it would bolster the impression that their accusations were politically motivated. They had seen where that led, and lost.

As it turns out, the omission of this political history ended up leaving huge gaps in the narrative of the prosecution during Jeremy's trial. Officer Calhoun testified on the stand that when he saw stills of the perpetrator from overhead surveillance cameras, which the Commonwealth's prosecutor called “admittedly grainy”, he immediately thought of someone who might resemble the person. Because of the gag agreement, he couldn't say why the image of this barely discernible person in a city of 200,000 people made him think of one person in particular. The jury never asked.

Detective Greer of the VCU police told the jury that he had officially obtained Jeremy's name from the DMV, but because of the gag agreement, could not specify how he knew what information to give the DMV to obtain that name. The jury never seemed to notice.

Because the Wingnut is a collective, property is not strictly delineated, and its bicycle rack (on which the police claim to have found a bike similar to the one in the video) is accessible to a large number of people. Because this broaches the political, it was not mentioned.

And finally, everyone without historical perspective was left to merely speculate as to why Commonwealth Attorney Christopher Toepp made the unusual move of requesting to try the case personally.

Final Impressions

Reporters and other observers were not able to view the surveillance video or the stills, except during the moments that the prosecution shuffled them around during the trial, and only then from a distance. I cannot say whether they reveal Jeremy as the perpetrator. I can say that they were grainy, dimly lit and did not reveal a face, but without adequate opportunity to examine them closely, I can't have a firm opinion about the identity of the individual. Given that the prosecution's case, in its own words, was “purely circumstantial”, I am forced to

question whether the police department's familiarity with Jeremy was the prime motivator for either the initial suspicion or the ensuing pursuit of his conviction.

Jeremy plans to file an appeal, and he may have good grounds for doing so. Only 48 hours before the case went to trial, the attorney assigned to represent him by the Commonwealth declared a family emergency and declined to appear. Despite the extremely short notice, the Commonwealth refused to set a new date and the new defense attorney, with zero time to prepare, did not call a single witness.

The case will continue to unfold on the morning of April 6th in the John Marshall court building.

1 Feb - Portugal's Supreme Court rejects 2nd US appeal to extradite George Wright

Portugal's Supreme Court has refused a second appeal by the U.S. to extradite American fugitive George Wright. We've pasted a corporate news article about the decision below.

MORE:

A court ruling provided to The Associated Press on Wednesday showed judges confirmed a decision last month to deny a U.S. appeal for extradition. They issued their ruling Tuesday without providing details.

The U.S. can lodge a final appeal at the Constitutional Court in Lisbon.

Portuguese police captured the 68-year-old Wright near the capital Lisbon last September, ending his four decades on the lam after escaping from a New Jersey prison.

A lower court judge ruled in November that Wright had become a Portuguese citizen and that, under Portuguese law, the statute of limitations on his 15- to 30-year sentence for a robbery-murder in New Jersey had expired. It consequently refused to send him back to the U.S.

The Supreme Court judges wrote in Tuesday's decision that the U.S. arguments "did not invalidate" the earlier ruling.

In Portugal, foreign authorities must present their extradition request through the local Public Prosecutor's office.

However, the Portuguese Public Prosecutor decided against an appeal. Its reasons for doing so were not made public. In Portugal, extradition cases are conducted in secret.

The Supreme Court consequently ruled that it was not legally permissible for the U.S. to appeal alone, rejecting the appeal on procedural grounds.

Wright's Portuguese lawyer, Manuel Luis Ferreira, told The AP he had not yet seen the Supreme Court ruling and declined to comment.

However, he said that Wright was "happy" with the decision. "It's good for us," Ferreira said by telephone.

Wright, now called Jorge Luis dos Santos after changing his name, is married to a Portuguese woman and has two grown children. They have lived near Lisbon since 1993.

Wright spent seven years in a U.S. prison for gunning down a man during a 1962 gas station robbery in New Jersey. Wright and others broke out of prison in 1970. He was among a group that hijacked a plane in 1972 from the U.S. to Algeria along with other Black Liberation Army militants.

Guinea-Bissau, a former Portuguese colony in West Africa, granted him political asylum in the 1980s when it was run by a Marxist government. Wright then got Portuguese citizenship through his 1991 marriage to a Portuguese woman.

Wright was captured in Portugal after his U.S. fingerprint matched one in Portugal's database of prints for all citizens, according to U.S. officials.

The daughter of Walter Paterson, the man killed during the New Jersey holdup, said Wednesday the latest decision sounded to her like more of the same though she hadn't learned the details yet.

"I would always hope that they would do what is right," said Ann Patterson, 63, of Howell, New Jersey.

2 Feb - Fundraise to Support Toronto G20 Prisoners

Guelph Anarchist Black Cross, who have been doing much of the support work surrounding the Toronto G20 prisoners, are raising funds for ongoing support. We've included their call for support below.

MORE:

As January 2012 draws to a close, we still continue to persevere against state repression from the Toronto G20 protests in 2010. Friends are coming out of jail, but more friends are also going in, and many are awaiting sentencing. For a snapshot of the ongoing legal processes, check out

<http://www.dominionpaper.ca/articles/4318>

Guelph ABC needs more money. Your money perhaps. We are fundraising to cover ongoing canteen costs for these comrades, travel expenses to visit them, collect phone calls, sending letters and reading materials, etc.

In total, our fundraising goal for 2012 is \$3200.

We send big thank yous to everybody who has helped us raise funds so far. With friends going to jail, we are transitioning from fundraising for legal fees to covering jail support. With your help, we are doing everything we can to make the time spent on the inside that much more bearable.

Here's how to donate to the Guelph ABC G20 Support Fund:

1. paypal: [guelphabc\(at\)riseup.net](mailto:guelphabc@riseup.net) or click the button on our website:

<http://guelphabc.noblogs.org/>

2. Deposit cash to the following TD bank account (In Canada): Transit # 00182, Institution # 004, Account # 00185228263.

3. Write a cheque or money order to Guelph ABC with G20 in the memo line. Mail to the PO box below.

Guelph ABC
Post Office Box 183
Guelph, Ontario
N1H 6J6
Canada

You can visit <http://guelphabc.noblogs.org> for updates, letter writing addresses, and more info.

Email guelphabc@riseup.net with any questions.

2 Feb - Victor VanOrden Sentenced to Five Years

District Judge Duane Hoffmeyer sentenced Victor to 5 years in prison after he pleaded guilty in Woodbury County District Court to releasing an animal from an animal facility and attempted third-degree burglary. Upon hearing the length of her codefendant/husband's sentence, Kellie VanOrden withdrew her not guilty plea and will head to court March 6th.

MORE:

In addition to the 5 year prison sentence, Judge Hoffmeyer ordered Victor to pay \$8,757 in restitution to Steve Krage, the mink farm's owner.

Victor had agreed to plead guilty as part of a plea agreement, but the odd thing is that no sentence had been spelled out prior to this morning. The ultimate decision of the length of the sentence was left up to Judge Hoffmeyer. Originally, Victor's lawyer felt that this was a better direction to take instead of trial in which Victor would have been facing a maximum sentence of 13 years and could have been sentenced to the full duration of that time if found guilty by the jury.

The Judge told the court room that the decision was difficult because Victor is so young and has a clean slate (no prior criminal record).

The Judge Hoffmeyer was rather tough today in his deliberation stating, "In the length it takes to drive up here, you had numerous opportunities to ask yourself, 'What are we doing?' ... and you still kept on coming."

Judge Hoffmeyer said he would be open to reconsidering his sentencing order at some point. "That's certainly on the table," he said.

It was reported by the Sioux City Journal that Kellie, Victor's wife, was sitting in the gallery behind her husband, and Kellie gasped when Judge Hoffmeyer announced his sentence.

Kellie was also scheduled to be sentenced today at 1:00 pm in which she was planning on pleading guilty, but after a short conversation with her attorney, her lawyer asked to speak with Judge Hoffmeyer and Assistant Woodbury County Attorney Drew Bockenstedt in the judge's chambers. When they returned to the courtroom, Judge Hoffmeyer opened the hearing and said he understood that Marshall did not wish to plead guilty.

Kellie is scheduled for trial March 6th 2012. Donations for legal fees are now needed more than ever!

2 Feb - 2 Feb - Grand Jury Resister Jordan Halliday Transferred

Jordan Halliday is currently in transit to a federal prison. He can only receive postcards at his current location, the address listed below:

**Jordan Halliday #15922081
Nevada Southern Detention Center
2190 East Mesquite Road
Pahrump, Nevada 89060**

2 Feb - U.S. Attorney's Office Confirms Investigation Is Ongoing into Anti-war Activists

Members of the Freedom Road Socialist Organization (Fight Back! tendency) recently found out they are in fact still being investigated by the FBI, following last year's raid and arrests of many of their members.

MORE:

The Northern Illinois Assistant U.S. Attorney Barry Jonas stated that the "investigation is continuing" into the case of the anti-war and international solidarity activists hit with FBI raids and grand jury repression. Barry Jonas is known for his leading role in prosecuting the leaders of the Holy Land Foundation while he was trial attorney for the Department of Justice Counter-terrorism Section.

This confirms what the U.S. Attorney's office related some months ago - they are preparing multiple indictments of multiple activists. The FBI raided seven homes and the government subpoenaed 23 international solidarity activists to a Chicago grand jury over a year ago. The anti-war activists refused to appear at the secretive grand jury and launched a campaign against political repression. The U.S. government is threatening to imprison anti-

war activists on the grounds of “material support for terrorism.”

The confirmation of the ongoing investigation came during a January 24, 2012 phone call between Assistant U.S. Attorney Barry Jonas and attorney Bruch Nestor, who represents some of the political activists.

Nestor initially contacted Minneapolis Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew Winter to view some of the sealed documents in the case. The grand jury proceedings against the anti-war activists are secret. The vast majority of documents relating to their case are under seal, meaning the targeted activists or their attorneys cannot view them. Assistant U.S. Attorney Winter helped to oversee the Sept. 24, 2010 raids and in recent months represented the government on the issue of returning property seized in the raids. Winter told Nestor to contact Chicago Assistant U.S. Attorney Barry Jonas.

Jonas told Nestor the documents would remain secret "pending completion of the investigation."

Barry Jonas is responsible for railroading the Holy Land leaders. Jonas views solidarity with Palestine as a crime deserving long-term imprisonment. He is willing to pull every dirty trick available to him to obtain convictions. The Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development was once the largest Muslim charity in the U.S. Its efforts were geared towards providing humanitarian aid to help the people of Palestine and other countries. In 2001 its offices were raided. Three years later, five people associated with the charity were indicted. The first trial ended with a hung jury. The second trial ended with convictions. The five defendants received sentences that range from 15 to 65 years in prison.

The Holy Land trial included secret witnesses - the defense never got to find out who the witnesses were - the use of hearsay evidence, and the introduction of evidence that had nothing to do with the defendants in the case, such as showing a video from Palestine of protesters burning an American flag, as a means to prejudice the jury.

As lead prosecutor, Barry Jonas played a key role in all this. He is now working under Chicago U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald, who runs the federal grand jury attacking anti-war and international solidarity activists.

The Committee to Stop FBI Repression urges all supporters of peace with justice to sign the pledge to take action (<http://www.stopfbi.net/get-involved/pledge-of-resistance>) in the event that international solidarity activists are indicted.

In a closely related case, the FBI directed the LA Sheriff to raid the home of [veteran Chicano leader Carlos Montes](#). Carlos Montes is now facing trial and imprisonment on six felony charges relating back to a student protest that happened 42 years ago. See www.StopFBI.net

3 Feb – “For a Revolutionary Black History Month” by Mumia Abu-Jamal

Mumia’s latest column is reprinted below.

MORE:

As we once again approach February, the papers and TV stations will feature programming that shows more Black faces than usual. Some will show movies, some documentaries and some will feature history in celebration of Black History Month.

Undoubtedly, Martin Luther King Jr's epic "March on Washington" speech will be samples, its grainy, black and white videotape the very symbol of a bygone era, and it's key catchphrase....Thank God Almighty, we're free at last!" ~ a haunting and ironic mockery of the real state of most of Black America.

One tape that invariably will not be shown is one of the final press conferences of the nation's first (and perhaps only) Black U.S. Supreme Court Justice, Thurgood Marshall, aged and ill, yet with the presence of mind to announce, "I'm still not free."

For millions of Black Americans, this Black History Month, while perhaps rich in symbol, comes amidst the greatest loss of collective assets in our history, crippling joblessness, haunting home foreclosures, public schools that perform more mis-education than education, rabid police terrorism and perhaps the highest Black incarceration rates in U.S. history, and all that entails.

That we have Black History Month at all is due to the Black Freedom Movements of the '60's, and the dogged persistence of Black Historian, Carter G. Woodson, who began his efforts with Negro History Week, back in the 1920's! Yet, it begins, as do all struggles for progress, with the Movement.

If Black mothers and grandmothers, and later Black schoolchildren, didn't follow King, we wouldn't know his name, except perhaps as an Historical footnote. For, without followers, there is no movement - and thus no progress.

The late, great Marxist Revolutionary historian, C.L.R. James, in his finest work, *Black Jacobins, a History of the Haitian Revolution*, illustrates how the leadership - including Gen. Toussaint L'Ouverture - tried repeatedly to betray the Revolution, on to face two immovable forces -the racist recalcitrance of the French government of Napoleon (who wanted to restore slavery), and the militancy of the Black soldiers, who pushed onward to Revolution.

The point? People make history, by mass movements, often ones which go faster and further than the leaders want. And masses make and sustain revolutions - often against 'leaders' whose every instinct is to betray them.

In a forward to one of the many editions of *Black Jacobins*, James reminds us, "...that it was the slaves who had made the Revolution. Many of the slave leaders to the end were unable to read or write" (James, xvi)

But they sure knew how to fight.

Africans, by the tens of thousands, broke their chains, and though penniless, hungry, and scarred by the ravages of bondage, found weapons and the will to fight for freedom against the defenders of slavery: France, Britain, and Spain. They beat them all, because their hunger for freedom was greater than anything. ANYTHING.

And by so doing they changed world history.

They shattered French dreams of an American Empire; and enabled the U.S. to double in size after it's purchase of Louisiana from Napoleon.

They also did what no 'slave' army had ever done in modern or ancient history. They defeated an empire.

That is Revolutionary Black History ---and it deserves to be remembered during Black History Month.

4 Feb - Two Arrested, One Facing Extradition, After Florida Protest

NegotiationIsOver.net is one of Walter Bond's support sites. Yesterday, the Director of NIO, Camille Marino and another activist named Lisa Grossman were arrested at a protest in Florida. Lisa is out of jail, but Camille is not. More information as it develops.

MORE:

Camille was not told why she was arrested, but since has found out that vivisector Donal O'Leary is personally paying for her to be extradited to Michigan, where she is considered to be a fugitive because of the warrant issued related to NIO displaying his home address. Camille's house was also searched and raided.

Camille Marino #AS012MNI001261

Alachua County Sherrif's Office, DOJ
3333 NE 39th Avenue
Gainesville, Florida 32609

That jail only permits prisoners to receive postcards.

Funds for Camille Marino are being collected through paypal at thecove3@gmail.com. A facebook page is being set up to support Camille.

--

Animal Rights activist **Camille Marino** was arrested on Saturday, Feb. 4th, while attending a peaceful anti-vivisection demonstration, and commemoration of two monkeys who were tortured to death, at the University of Florida. A passionate and uncompromising animal advocate, Camille is now in the process of being extradited to Detroit, MI. She is scheduled to appear in court this week on charges related to her campaign against notorious vivisectionist, **Donal O'Leary**, a researcher at Wayne State University.

For over two decades, Donal O'Leary's experiments have been found by The Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine (PCRM) to be in "serious violation" of the Animal Welfare Act (USA). The PCRM has asked federal regulators to investigate the private laboratory of Prof. O'Leary, for his ongoing torture of dogs, which the PCRM describe in their [Petition for Enforcement](#) as "unrelieved agony". Please take a minute to let Allan Gilmour, president of Wayne State University, know you want him to immediately halt the use of dogs in the university's inhumane heart experiments using [PCRM's online form](#).

Outraged by the dogs' terrible suffering, Camille posted news and details of Prof. O'Leary's heinous experiments on her website; O'Leary then sought – and won – a court order for their removal. Ms. Marino was also ordered by the court "not to post anything about [O'Leary] on websites or other social media sites". Given that details of O'Leary's personal information could be easily obtained from elsewhere on the internet, and that published media reports of his atrocities were readily available online, the ruling is absurd. More importantly, it was – and is – a direct violation of Camille's constitutional rights under the First Amendment.

The following is an example of what Donal O'Leary did, with American tax dollars, to one sad, abandoned and frightened 'shelter' dog, a Dalmatian named Queenie:

"According to medical records obtained through the *Freedom of Information Act*, Queenie's chest was cut open so experimenters could install devices inside her. After a second major surgery to implant more instruments, she was forced to run dozens of treadmill experiments with catheters protruding from her body and incisions leaking bodily fluids, causing pain and distress. Hypertension was induced by reduction of blood flow to her kidneys. On June 29, 2010, Queenie — a former companion animal obtained from a Michigan animal shelter — was killed in the laboratory, after one of the devices broke and retracted into her body."

Camille is currently being held at the Alachua County Jail in Gainesville, Florida. She is classified as a maximum security prisoner, awaiting extradition scheduled for February 15th. There is a "no bond" order in place since she is a felony fugitive. Once in Michigan, she may well face additional charges relating to her campaign to expose the barbaric and sadistic acts inflicted on innocent animals by Donal O'Leary. We will not give up our fight for justice for these animals, or for justice for Camille! It is the vivisectionists, like O'Leary, who are the real criminals...the real terrorists...and it is they who must be brought to justice!

We fear that Camille is looking at a long, costly, and protracted trial. The vivisection complex is comprised of industry, corporations, law and government. She is going to need our full support in taking on this all-powerful conglomerate, so please help by publicizing her case, exposing the evils of vivisection, and donating generously to her legal defense fund.

5 Feb - G20 Prisoner Adam Lewis Released

Adam Lewis was released from jail in Penetang. He served 70 days for counseling to commit mischief at the G20 in Toronto. Hopefully this shows a trend in folks getting released after serving significantly less than their full sentence.

6 Feb – Reportback From International Day of Solidarity with Leonard Peltier + Update

Over a period of 10 days, there were 30 events worldwide in support of Leonard Peltier. In addition to many cities in the U.S., there were events in Belgium, Canada, England, Ireland and Germany.

MORE:

Anniversary Message From Leonard Peltier

Greetings to my relations, my friends, and to my many supporters the world over.

It is that time again. Another year has passed, and on February 6th I will be marking 36 years since my arrest. During all this time, my family and allies have discovered just how far the government will go to wrongfully convict and imprison someone they know is innocent. They do this as a message—first to Indians, and further to anyone who might stand up to injustice—as if to say, “We will do as we please”.

From the day of my arrest until now, through you my supporters, I have been honored with many activist and humanitarian awards. I thank you for keeping awareness of me and my case alive. Your commitment has really been a special experience for me.

In addition many celebrities, political figures, and organizations have called for my release, including 55 members of Congress. This last November, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) passed a permanent resolution calling for my release. Well let’s hope its not that permanent. The NCAI has committed to being directly involved with my case so that the message from Washington to Indian people does not remain, “We will do as we please”.

Still, despite all this attention and with all the leaders and people of conscience calling for my release, I have been kept in this iron cage. They have even kept me longer than their own laws say they can. With evidence corroborating that I did not receive a fair trial, with proof of government misconduct, with admissions by government officials that they do not know who killed those two agents that day at the Jumping Bull property, here I sit. “We will do as we please.”

Recently, as many of you know, an act was passed and signed into law that allows for indefinite detention of American citizens without charge or trial. This is perhaps the final straw, the final nail in the coffin of American freedom, the end of habeas corpus and due process. “We will do as we please.”

We Indians said it for generations: If they can kill us indiscriminately, they will do it to anyone. If they can take our land, they will do it to anyone. If they can kidnap our children and take them to prison schools, they will do it to anyone. If they can starve us and lie to us, they will do it to anyone. If they can wrongfully imprison us, they will do it to anyone. Now, sadly, this is another Indian prophecy fulfilled. “We will do as we please.”

Our ancestors and tribal people all over the world prophesized a time of upheaval and great change. I believe that time is fast approaching. I believe a part of this is the government’s ongoing overreach of its authority—until the people rise up and tell Washington, “You will NOT do as you please! We are NOT your slaves! We will NOT be subjugated! We will NOT be ruled by an iron fist! We will NOT allow you to steal our liberty or our justice!”

My friends, my relatives, my supporters—Be a part of this latest, perhaps the last “Indian uprising”. Make your voice heard! Be a part of the brave Movement to come, the Movement that will change the course of human history. Make change and hope and peace and justice a part of your personal legacy. Be the change that you

envision and know in your heart must take place.

Do this, and on the day you take your last breath and prepare to meet Creator, you will know your life on this Earth was well spent. Close your eyes knowing you used your breath and energy to Creator's good purpose. Smile as you cross over knowing you changed the world so that the next seven generations can know a good life. Do these things and know that I am with you. I will embrace you as my relations—in this life or the next.

Mitakuye Oyasin.

Buffalo Lawyers Seek Federal Leonard Peltier Documents

On May 13, 2004, Buffalo attorney **Michael Kuzma** filed an application with the US Department of Justice for all records in its possession relating to one **Frank Black Horse**. Kuzma represented **Leonard Peltier**, a federal prisoner since 1976, convicted of killing two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota on June 26, 1975, during a siege of a reservation ranch by federal agents.

Last Friday, on Kuzma's behalf, local attorneys **Peter A. Reese** and **Daire Brian Irwin** filed a suit in the US District Court in Buffalo seeking an order directing the Justice Department to release the requested records of Black Horse. (Reese has represented both *Artvoice* and one of its staffers.)

Black Horse, whose real name is **Frank Deluca** and who is no Indian despite his alias, has been a resident of Canada since 1976 when, under federal indictment, he fled this country after shooting and wounding an FBI agent at Wounded Knee, South Dakota. He and Peltier were both arrested in Hinton, Alberta on February 6, 1976, but only Peltier, a leader of the American Indian Movement (AIM), was extradited to the States to stand trial. Despite the federal indictment against him, Black Horse has remained free across the border ever since. Peltier's supporters, legal counsel and a number of independent observers have regarded this shadowy figure as someone who could shed light on what they regard as a concerted effort by federal authorities to railroad Peltier for crimes he didn't commit. Hence, Kuzma's long, dedicated, and tortuous attempt to obtain the Justice Department's records on Black Horse.

The paper filed in federal court by Reese and Irwin included a list of events, turns and turnarounds in Kuzma's unsuccessful over seven-and-a-half-year-long quest, accompanied by 21 copies of correspondence between him and either Justice or the FBI. Reese and Irwin's suit alleges that Kuzma "has exhausted the applicable administrative remedies with respect to his FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request," and that the government "has wrongfully withheld the requested records from the plaintiff."

Very early in his tangled negotiation with the federal government, Kuzma agreed to accept only those "public-source" records in the government's possession—such as news reports—and not seek any documents whose release could invade the privacy of third parties. These public-source documents, he explained in an interview Tuesday in his office, are very difficult or impossible to track down today because of their obscurity, age, and lack of availability on the Internet. The fact that the FBI collected them may be significant in explaining what its goals and methods were in this case.

And on November 14, 2008, after a number of delays and dead ends, an FBI official, **David M. Hardy**, wrote Kuzma informing him the bureau had "located approximately 927 pages which are potentially responsive to your request." Hardy even provided an estimate of the cost to duplicate them: \$82.70. But after Kuzma promptly remitted that sum, it was returned, with no explanation. In response to his puzzled inquiry, the bureau eventually told him that it had no public-source records it could share with him, after all. Despite several subsequent twists, including backing off from and then reinstating this position, Justice and the FBI have continued to deny Kuzma's applications. (In a brief telephone interview, US Attorney **William Hochul** said he was unaware of the suit, but doubted that Justice would have any comment. **Maureen Dempsey**, a press representative at the FBI's Buffalo office, said it knew of the action but could not make any statement about a pending civil suit.)

Peltier's arrest, conviction, and imprisonment have long been regarded by many people as a product of the FBI's illicit **COINTELPRO** (counter-intelligence program) that was secretly operated from the 1950s through the

1970s, all too often in violation of the law and federal court decisions. The Reverend **Martin Luther King, Jr.** was a targeted victim of the FBI's spying and character assassination, as depicted in Clint Eastwood's recent movie, *J. Edgar*. In his *A People's History of the United States*, the late Boston University historian Howard Zinn described the government's massive response with over 200 heavily armed federal agents when AIM occupied the reservation village of Wounded Knee in 1973 to protest the Bureau of Indian Affairs' miserable treatment of Native Americans. This was the political backdrop to the charges against Peltier.

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Nelson Mandela and 55 members of the US Congress, among others, have called for Peltier's release.

9 Feb – Radio Cuban 5 Online is Born

Check out the first interview with Alicia Jrapko of the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5; She talks with me about the newest campaign to free the Cuban 5: Obama Give Me Five!

<http://radiocuban5.tripod.com>

On May 13, 2004, Buffalo attorney **Michael Kuzma** filed an application with the US Department of Justice for all records in its possession relating to one **Frank Black Horse**. Kuzma represented **Leonard Peltier**, a federal prisoner since 1976, convicted of killing two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota on June 26, 1975, during a siege of a reservation ranch by federal agents.

Last Friday, on Kuzma's behalf, local attorneys **Peter A. Reese** and **Daire Brian Irwin** filed a suit in the US District Court in Buffalo seeking an order directing the Justice Department to release the requested records of Black Horse. (Reese has represented both *Artvoice* and one of its staffers.)

Black Horse, whose real name is **Frank Deluca** and who is no Indian despite his alias, has been a resident of Canada since 1976 when, under federal indictment, he fled this country after shooting and wounding an FBI agent at Wounded Knee, South Dakota. He and Peltier were both arrested in Hinton, Alberta on February 6, 1976, but only Peltier, a leader of the American Indian Movement (AIM), was extradited to the States to stand trial. Despite the federal indictment against him, Black Horse has remained free across the border ever since. Peltier's supporters, legal counsel and a number of independent observers have regarded this shadowy figure as someone who could shed light on what they regard as a concerted effort by federal authorities to railroad Peltier for crimes he didn't commit. Hence, Kuzma's long, dedicated, and tortuous attempt to obtain the Justice Department's records on Black Horse.

The paper filed in federal court by Reese and Irwin included a list of events, turns and turnarounds in Kuzma's unsuccessful over seven-and-a-half-year-long quest, accompanied by 21 copies of correspondence between him and either Justice or the FBI. Reese and Irwin's suit alleges that Kuzma "has exhausted the applicable administrative remedies with respect to his FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) request," and that the government "has wrongfully withheld the requested records from the plaintiff."

Very early in his tangled negotiation with the federal government, Kuzma agreed to accept only those "public-source" records in the government's possession—such as news reports—and not seek any documents whose release could invade the privacy of third parties. These public-source documents, he explained in an interview Tuesday in his office, are very difficult or impossible to track down today because of their obscurity, age, and

lack of availability on the Internet. The fact that the FBI collected them may be significant in explaining what its goals and methods were in this case.

And on November 14, 2008, after a number of delays and dead ends, an FBI official, **David M. Hardy**, wrote Kuzma informing him the bureau had “located approximately 927 pages which are potentially responsive to your request.” Hardy even provided an estimate of the cost to duplicate them: \$82.70. But after Kuzma promptly remitted that sum, it was returned, with no explanation. In response to his puzzled inquiry, the bureau eventually told him that it had no public-source records it could share with him, after all. Despite several subsequent twists, including backing off from and then reinstating this position, Justice and the FBI have continued to deny Kuzma’s applications. (In a brief telephone interview, US Attorney **William Hochul** said he was unaware of the suit, but doubted that Justice would have any comment. **Maureen Dempsey**, a press representative at the FBI’s Buffalo office, said it knew of the action but could not make any statement about a pending civil suit.)

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9 Feb - 36 Warrants issued in Santa Cruz for 75 River building occupation

As many as 36 people who Santa Cruz police said stormed a former bank building in downtown Santa Cruz at the height of the Occupy Santa Cruz movement will be charged with vandalism and trespassing.

MORE:

FROM CORPORATE MEDIA

On Nov. 30, a group called Anonymous Autonomous took over a former bank building at 75 River Street and occupied it for three days.

Living up to their name, no one ever came forward as Anonymous Autonomous' leader.

Santa Cruz District Attorney Bob Lee and Santa Cruz police said they identified many of the building occupiers. Among those being charged are: Robert Norris Kahn; Gabriella Celeste RipleyPhipps, 24, of Santa Cruz; Desiree Christine Foster, 34, of Santa Cruz; Brent Elliott Adams; Becky Johnson; Franklin Cruz Alcantara; Bradley Stuart Allen; Alex George Darocy; Becky Ann Johnson; Cameron Stephens Laurendeau; Edward Daniel Rector; and Grant Garioch Wilson.

Anonymous Autonomous, a splintered off faction of Occupy Santa Cruz, said it took over the building to make a

political statement and to turn it into a community center.

But Santa Cruz Police Department Chief Kevin Vogel said they were anarchists who caused \$40,000 in damages to the vacant building.

"No one has a First Amendment right to break into someone's property, commit acts of felony vandalism and ignore the law," Vogel said in December. "Their actions were senseless and childish."

The building occupation ended on Dec. 3, when protesters slipped away at night to escape an anticipated police raid.

Anonymous Autonomous' brazen building takeover prompted Santa Cruz police to change their hands-off approach with the Occupy Santa Cruz movement.

For seven weeks, 100 protesters hunkered down in tents, teepees and a geodome in San Lorenzo Park behind the Santa Cruz County courthouse. On Dec. 8, 2011, the campers cleared out as hundreds of deputies and police officers in riot gear flooded the park.

10 Feb – Blog Entries from Mandy Hiscocks

Through her supporters, 2010 G20 political prisoner Mandy Hiscocks has been posting weekly blog entries. We've pasted the last few below.

MORE:

19 Jan - welcome to the next year of my life

today is monday january 16th, and this is my first written dispatch from jail. it feels strange to write with paper and these little golf-sized pencils we get (no pens allowed) - it feels a bit like high school all over again. it also feels weird to write about what i've been doing the last few days; it's so mundane that i wonder how it can possibly be interesting. but one of the main ideas behind these dispatches is to share this experience. which is what it is. so here goes!

lots has happened since i got to unit 2F last friday, but for today i want to tell you what happened before i got here.

first of all, my sentencing hearing was AMAZING! i've had a lot of interesting experiences in court, but that was definitely one i'll never forget. i'd been stressing a lot about my statement to the court - a combination of the regular writing and public speaking nervousness, some extra last minute lawyer-induced worries, and of course that nagging voice in my head that kept asking if i would be totally fucking myself over by saying this stuff to my sentencing judge. but i'm glad i did! there is something very liberating about giving people in power a piece of your mind - i highly recommend it.

i definitely would have been a lot more nervous without all the folks who came out to support and cheer me on (literally!). so thank you all again. hearing all the noise from the video room was the greatest thing - i bet that's never happened before at 2201 Finch! and you made our dear crown Jason Miller SO ANGRY; it still warms my heart to think of it.

anyway, i digress into happy memories. back to the story!

after being cuffed and led out of the court room, i was taken to the back where i emptied my pockets and removed my belt, shoelaces and the cord from my hoodie. then, the inevitable strip-search. two female court officers (remember: male cops are not allowed to strip search women) took my clothes from me one item at a time to see if i was stashing anything in there. i was only partially naked at any given time. but still, the whole thing is awkward for all involved. especially the squatting. not once, not twice, but THREE times. well, i remember when the thought of being strip searched was horrifying. . .now it's just routine. how quickly these little indignities get normalized. . .

the cells at Finch court, like those in court houses and cop shops everywhere, are freezing cold. if you've ever been in one you know the drill: you pace, you try to sleep in every position you can think of, you stare into space. you eat the infamous cheese (or tuna) on white bun sandwich and orange Tang lunch. you wait and wait and wait.

i waited until late afternoon for the wagon. when it came i had a fleeting panicked thought: how's the weather? what if we get in an accident and i'm handcuffed in a steel box that's locked from the outside? [argh. stop that.] what if the wagon goes off a bridge/ sinks in the lake/ lights on fire? [ARGH. STOP THAT.] the wagon was cold but the drive thankfully uneventful. the woman in my section was under the impression that Vanier would be just like court cells, so it was nice to be able to tell her a bit about the place - that there would be food and beds and things to do (sort of), and that it wouldn't be freezing cold.

processing at the jail consisted of a pat-down search, a meal, an intake ("are you suicidal? date of birth? next of kin?", height, mugshot, fingerprints), a visit to the nurse (health questionnaire, vitals, diet request, TB test injection), and a quick stint in a cell with a phone, which was a nice surprise. and then, another strip search.

because why not, really? "strip. arms above your head. open your mouth. bend over, shake out your hair. turn around. show me the soles of your feet. spread your legs. bend over, touch your toes. now put these on." (yes! the comfy green jogging suit!)

and then i was being marched off with a bunch of new inmates to Unit 2. "no talking in the halls. hey! NO TALKING! keep to the right. okay stop. stand here. no, HERE. NO TALKING." well, shit. welcome to the next year of my life.

29 Jan – 10 days down, 314 to go

it's sunday january 22nd and this is my tenth day. so far things are going well, there haven't been any problems and i have no regrets about my decision to do this time.

since i got here i've been taking it easy and learning the lay of the land - which hasn't been very complicated since i'm in Unit 2F, the same one i was in while waiting for bail. not much has changed since the summer of 2010 - just some little things, like now we get compostable "ecotainer" cups instead of styrofoam, and instead of real soy milk there's this horrible SMART MILK non-dairy milk replacer powder. kosher, vegan and gross.

the days are short and very structured, which makes them go by quickly and predictably. there's more than enough food (although i'm grateful to my parents every single day for not raising me to be a picky eater) and lots of time to sleep (although it gets quite cold in the cells at night and the lights never get turned off). there are ways to exercise too, despite not having access to a gym: i stretch and do yoga, pushups and burpees in my cell, and i walk in circles around the range for hours every day. so it doesn't seem like it will be too difficult to stay healthy - although contracting Hepatitis C is a concern, living in such close quarters with so many people who have it.

the only really shitty thing is how seldom we're let outside and how little time we get to stay there. in the 10 days i've been here yard has been called only three times, one of which i missed because i was in a meeting about parole. i'm pretty sure there's a rule about how much outside time inmates have to get, and i bet it's more than three times every 10 days for 10-20 minutes each. according to the Inmate Information Guide for Adult Institutions, issued by the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and posted on the wall here: "Fresh air or outside exercise is normally offered every day. The Superintendent may cancel it due to bad weather or a security concern," uh-huh.

there are a lot of really nice people here, and luckily my cellie is one of them. we have some pretty interesting conversations and play a lot of games - backgammon, checkers, dice and cards. i just bought paper and coloured pencils off of canteen too, so maybe there's a settlers board in our future. . .

all the people here - guards and inmates - are pretty chill. for the most part the inmates are friendly and we hang-out ,or they keep to themselves and we don't. i haven't met everyone yet but i'm slowly getting to know folks. there's a fair bit of turnover since maximum security is where people come to await bail (which they

sometimes get within a few days) or to await transfer to the penitentiary. people who are sentenced and will be doing time in vanier usually get sent to Unit 3, the medium security work unit, after a bit of time on maximum. the people who stay here longer term are those deemed "inappropriate for a less restricted environment and people on immigration hold who are assumed to be a flight risk regardless of their offence (or lack thereof).

like the gym and many other good things, the library cannot be accessed by people on Unit 2. there's a bookshelf though, and a library cart comes around every so often to switch up the books. one thing that's changed since the last time i was here is the quality of books on 2F. my fears of a shelf full of Harlequin romance novels and Danielle Steel were unfounded!

my fears of total disconnect, however, were not. there are no newspapers here and the magazines you can buy from canteen are not very helpful. i got the New Yorker but it's so american; Macleans is so bloody conservative; the rest are smut and fluff. our only news is Global or City TV for 20 minutes after dinner - i.e. nothing worth hearing about. so while i know that a cruise ship almost sank recently i have no idea what's going on at Occupy Anywhere, only a shallow understanding of Rob Ford's exploits, and completely skewed information (if there's any at all) about international affairs of any kind. for someone who used to watch Democracy Now! every day and read the Dominion on a regular basis this is quite a shock to the system.

it's not just the news, though. and it's not just not being able to be involved in anything. we're cut off in so many ways in here - from not being able to see outside through the frosted windows, to the two visits per week limit, to the lack of phone access. prison calls are collect and that can be expensive, they can only go to landlines or TRAPP numbers, there's no easy way to schedule them. the phones are always busy and there's a pretty screwed up system when it comes to getting a turn. it's also hard to justify a social call when people are desperately trying to get in touch with lawyers, emergency pet-sitters and potential sureties. so mail is where it's at. thanks so much for your letters! i promise to reply although it may take awhile.

i'm staring down another 315 days in here. it seems so impossible, but obviously it's not. on decemeber 3, 2012 i will be walking out of here. hopefully healthy and definitely more clued in when it comes to this beast we call the Prison Industrial Complex.

my biggest fear is that i'll become a cynical, nasty person in here - not in the way i'm crusty and bitter now but in a way that makes me unpleasant to be around and a drain on the community. please help me to not let that happen!

1 Feb - liberation

the other day i opened a book appropriately entitled "liberation". on the very first page, written in pencil, was this:

Why I am here?

How long am I going to be here?

How do I get out of Prison?

Who put me here?

Who do I speak to, what do I say?

Who will help me?

What do I need?

What type of help do I need?

Where do I go? for help.

When do I get out?

When does someone tell me what I am supposed to do?

i can't imagine how it must feel to be that isolated and disoriented in a place like this. when i got here, i'd been preparing myself for two months - lots of time to get comfortable with the idea of incarceration, to put plans in place, to find out much of what i needed to know. i'm fortunate, and privileged, to have tons of community support and friends who are skilled organizers with a lot of resources and access. all of that has made it pretty easy for me to get my bearings and transition into life on the inside.

but it's not like that for everyone here. there's a lot of uncertainty. i can hear it constantly in snippets of conversation as people walk around the range, talk to their lawyers on the phone, and ask anxious questions to guards, nurses, social workers - anyone who might know anything that could help them. i've met people who don't know what exactly their next court date is for, or if their their surety should be there, or why their lawyer didn't show up to represent them, or why they're being deported.

the legal system is not user-friendly, and there's no reason for that. i think there should be an orientation to the process for people just getting to jail. a regularly offered class, like the workshops on anger management, substance abuse, healthy relationships and so on that they run here. or just a handbook. hmm. . .i sense a project coming on, anyone interested in working with me on this?

as i think i mentioned in my last post, my "Earliest Discharge Date" is december 3, 2012. that's 2/3 of my 16 month sentence which will be all i'll serve as long as i "earn full remission and protect it by proper behaviour". . .how's that for condescending? most people end up serving no more than 2/3 of their sentence, it seems that improper behaviour has to be pretty bad (but don't quote me on that, i don't know for sure). because the crown has not asked for a period of probation following sentence, on december 3 i will be completely out of the clutches of the criminal "justice" system.

if i fail to act appropriately, i could be held past december 3 but no later than may 12, 2013, which is my Warrant Expiring Date and marks the end of the 16 month sentence. let's not think about that.

that brings me to the last important date: june 22, 2012, which is my Parole Eligibility Date and marks 1/3 of my sentence. despite rumours to the contrary, which i'm sorry to say i helped spread before arriving here, parole IS available for people doing up to two years less a day in provincial jails and isn't only for people serving longer sentences in federal penitentiaries. in fact, if your sentence is six months (181 days) or more, your right to a parole hearing is automatic. if it's less than that you have to apply in writing but it's still possible.

the person to talk to about parole is the institution liaison officer (ILO). one is available at every institution. the ILO i spoke to was very nice, and explained that her role is to give me all the information i need and then to help me prepare for a hearing. she gave me some pamphlets to look over which were very informative and slightly condescending, and a Parole Planning Guide which was slightly informative and very condescending.

if you're interested in how parole works in provincial jails, check out www.opb.gov.on.ca.

for now, in case you're thinking that me getting out on parole this summer sounds like a good idea and/or remotely possible, here are some of the highlights:

-the parole board "wants to discuss your offences with you and how you plan to keep yourself from committing a crime in the future." they want to see remorse, of which i have none.

-"the board will focus on whether or not your release will pose an undue risk to society" - yes, that's important because i was such a threat before - and "whether or not your release will help you to become a law abiding citizen." pardon me while i laugh uncontrollably for a moment.

-one of the "things you can do to increase the likelihood of parole" is "think about the decision you made that got you into trouble with the law and what you need to do to increase your chances of staying out of trouble if you are released." <sigh> so many things to say about this, and they all lead to PAROLE ELIGIBILITY FAIL.

but here's the real kicker: there are six mandatory standard conditions that come with parole. if i breach any of them or am "convicted or charged" with another criminal offence before the end of my full sentence in may 2013, my parole could be suspended. i could be forced back to Vanier to serve the rest of my time, which could even be extended past the 16 months if they decide not to count my time out on parole as time served. the conditions are:

-report to your parole supervisor and local police as required;

-remain in Ontario;

-get permission from your parole supervisor before changing address or employment;

-carry your parole certificate at all times

okay, so far so good. i suppose i could accept those. but the last two are:

-obey and the law and keep the peace;

-not associate with any person who is engaged in criminal activity or who has a criminal record unless approved by your parole supervisor.

now there's absolutely no way, after what happened to alex, that i trust the cops or the crown attorney's office to not have me arrested on some bogus charge or breach and have me thrown back in here just because they can. as for non-association conditions, i don't expect i'll ever sign those again. it's hard to believe they're constitutional (i suspect they're actually not) but easy to believe they're designed to rip targeted communities apart, one conditional release at a time. of all the mistakes i made since my arrest in the summer of 2010, agreeing to non-communication with my co-accused is the one i regret the most.

so thanks but no thanks. i've decided to waive my right to a parole hearing so that when i walk out of here i will not be on any conditions and won't be bound to the criminal "justice" system in any way.

this post is titled "liberation" so i'll end with a shout-out to Erik, who's spending his first week out of jail as i write this. of course, being freed from incarceration is not real freedom. . .none of us will have real freedom until we get our shit together and decide what we're willing to give up for it. but you all know that already.

10 Feb – home, home on the range

well, i've been here almost four weeks now, i'm all settled in and i've got the routine down. so now it's time for me to answer the question i get asked the most by folks on the outside: "so what do you do all day?"

come, spend a day on Unit 2F, in the maximum security wing of Vanier with me!

the lights come up in the cells around 7:45am. this gives us about 15 minutes to get up, get dressed, and strip our bed (folding the sheets and blankets neatly in a pile at the end of the bed, as per the photo posted out on the range). by the time the lights go on i've been up for at least an hour or two doing a full warm-up and stretch - conveniently remembered from my days of competitive gymnastics - while my cellie sleeps. being up that early means i get to see who's being taken out for court - they get taken at 6am so they can wait in holding cells for hours. it's inefficient and kind of mean. anyway, around 8am the loud buzzing sound means the cells are now unlocked, and we head out to breakfast. the cell door locks behind us.

here on maximum security we're supposed to either all be in or all be out of our cells at any given time - we can't go in and out throughout the day as we please. one exception to this is right after breakfast, when the doors and the cleaning supply cupboards are opened and we're allowed to take some time to clean our cells.

one cell out of the 16 on Unit 2F is a single - every other one is for two people. they have:

-two beds (metal slabs with plastic covered replaceable mattresses on top)

-a shelf at the end of each bed for our stuff

-a desk and stool

-a sink and toilet

-two mirrors, one of which is functional

-a window in the door that looks out onto the range (my cell has the best view. we can see everything - the guards, the TV, the clock)

-a window in the wall that we can't see through but it does let in some light

-one property box (big tupperware) each for us to store things in - usually things that need to be taken out to the range like paper and pencils, book, sweater and so on

okay, so where were we? oh, right, cleaning the cell. we sweep and mop the floor, and clean the desk, sink and toilet. unlike last time i was here in the summer of 2010, there's cleaning solution now. but still no rags or mop heads, so we use sanitary napkins and dirty towels. we clean a lot. i mean, who washes the toilet and mops the floor every single day? we do. it's not like we have any big plans for the day or anything.

at some point during chores one of the guards yells "supplies!" and we line up so they can pass soap, shampoo, tampons, etc. through a hatch. if you want a new toothbrush you have to bring the old one so they can see you toss it in the garbage. same goes for the deodorant and toothpaste containers, and the toilet paper rolls - i'm not joking. shortly before or shortly after supplies the nurse arrives and anyone taking meds lines up. they're passed through the hatch, too, and when you've swallowed you have to open your mouth to show the nurse you're not stashing them in there.

sometime after chores the cell doors are locked and the rest of the morning is spent on the range. the range is the common area that the cells open onto. it's very institutional with walls made of those big bricks and painted off-white like a high school gym, and a linoleum floor. eight tables with four seats each are bolted to the floor near the front of the range, closest to where the guards sit watching us from behind the glass. high up on the wall is a TV that gets turned on in the afternoons and evenings during the week and all day on weekends. three very well-used phones are lined up against one wall. there are two bathrooms and at the back end of the range are two showers that get unlocked whenever we're locked out of our cells. the bathrooms and showers don't lock so there's a little sliding window you can use to see if anyone's inside. there's also a laundry room but only guards and range workers go in there.

out on the range people chat, play cards, do crossword puzzles and sudukos and word finds, draw and colour, write letters and poems and journal entries, and talk on the phone. there are usually a few people walking around the range in circles, and sometimes people do step or sit-ups or stretch.

between 11 and 11:30 lunch arrives, and after lunch we get locked in our cells until around 2pm. "quiet time" - yes, like at daycare! some guards even dim the lights. this is a good time to get things done - i usually work on the blog or write letters and read. people have been sending me some really interesting things for which i'm really grateful. this is also a good time for a game with my cellie - lately we have been playing a lot of scrabble. if i'm feeling ambitious i do pushups or burpees, but that doesn't really happen very often.

when the cells unlock around 2pm we're back on the range until dinner (which comes ridiculously early - between 4 and 4:30pm). this is the time of Really Bad TV: Jerry Springer, Maury Povich, Silent Library, Scare Tactics. it's painful, and hard to get away from, but i'm getting better at tuning it out.

after dinner we're locked up again until 6pm, and then we're back out on the range until 7:30. in and out, in and out. nothing much happens in the evening. request forms are handed out (these are to be filled out by inmates who want to speak to someone, like a doctor or social worker or the [Elizabeth Fry Society](#)) and the nurse comes to dispense evening meds. at 7:30 we go back to our cells for the night and hope the lights don't get dimmed too soon. . . because some guards will dim them as early as 8:30. i guess sometimes they forget we're adults.

anyway the lights don't really go out - all night they're only dim - and i can still read in the only-slightly-darkness, so it's not too bad for me. at some point before my cellie falls asleep i make my bed, do a bit of yoga and am usually in bed by 10pm. it's easy to sleep eight hours a night here. . . i know some of you are jealous!

but really, don't be jealous, it's actually not very fun. every day is basically the same, with a few exceptions:

-wednesdays and sundays: clothing exchange. we get clean clothes, towels and bedsheets

-saturdays: the canteen order arrives

-sundays: we submit next week's canteen order form. we get our free issue: four pieces of lined paper and two envelopes that the jail mails out for free

there are the occasional very welcome interruptions of yard time, mail distribution and visits. and the less fun but still distracting chats with the institution's professionals and community workers. now that i'm settled i don't really see any of those people anymore. i also don't go to programs (Anger Management, Better Choices, Healthy Relationships etc.) or go to the Chapel or Bible study, although a lot of inmates do. mostly i try to write a couple of letters and make a phone call every day, work regularly on the weekly blog post, and do three 40 minute walks around the range daily.

something good happens at least once a day. i get a visit, or mail, or i chat on the phone with someone i miss. still, i often go to bed at night feeling that the day can't possibly be over because nothing has happened yet, i haven't really done anything. it's not like i never felt this way on the outside - i just feel it way more often here. i remind myself that it's probably how a lot of people feel who work shitty, meaningless jobs then go home and watch shitty, meaningless TV - but that doesn't make it better, just more sad.

because there's so little to do, i find it helps to keep everything separate and focus on one thing at a time. walking is walking and it happens inside. breathing fresh air happens outside. so don't walk around outside, just breathe. don't walk and read, or read while you eat! walk, then read, then eat - it takes longer. don't take the cell's garbage bag out on the way to breakfast - wait and do it during chores - it'll be an extra trip! i'm not sure if this is what people mean when they talk about mindfulness and focusing on the present, but it definitely feels different than my usual hurry-up-save-time multi-tasking lifestyle. i hope to be able to keep it up to some extent when i get out.

and speaking of getting out. . .Adam has been released from Penetang! i hope you're enjoying your first week back on the outside, Adam. slowly but surely the state is relaxing its grip on us :)

10 Feb – Prisoners in Corcoran Ad-Seg Continue Hunger Strike

Although media coverage of the event has been scarce, prisoners in the Administrative Segregation Unit (ASU) at Corcoran State Prison continue a hunger strike that has lasted over a month.

MORE:

In a statement released in late December, representatives of the strikers listed 11 demands that include access to educational and rehabilitative programming, adequate and timely medical care, and timely hearings on their cases and petitions. As of February 9, the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), disclosed that 30 men were still striking and a representative in the office said that prisoners had been intermittently striking for the last month. Unlike the California prisoner hunger strikes of July and September, little attention has been given to the ongoing strike at Corcoran.

Family members and advocates fear strikers may be experiencing serious medical issues and even death. A prisoner at Corcoran, who remains unnamed due to fear of reprisal, stated in a letter received on February 5th, "On or about February 2nd or 3rd, 2012, an inmate has passed away due to not eating that has been going on over here in Corcoran ASU. Inmates are passing out and having other medical problems and it seems that this is not being taken seriously. There will be more casualties if this isn't addressed or brought to light."

While this death is unconfirmed, it raises concerns that the CDCR is failing to deal with this hunger strike in an appropriate manner. "The prisoners are making very reasonable and legitimate demands regarding basic human rights," says Carol Strickman, a lawyer working on behalf of some hunger strikers in California, "For those of us on the outside, the slow pace of reform is frustrating. For those people enduring barbarous conditions, the lack of meaningful improvement is unbearable."

The demands of the Corcoran strikers are somewhat different than those of the strikes sparked in Pelican Bay State Prison's Security Housing Unit (SHU) this past summer and fall, which at one point included 12,000 prisoners in 13 prisons across California. Administrative Segregation Units are often used as holding places for prisoners in route to SHU facilities, or who are waiting release back into general population. Many prisoners in the various ASUs in California have been validated as gang members by CDCR and languish, sometimes for years, awaiting transfer to facilities such as Pelican Bay, where some prisoners have spent more than 20 years in solitary confinement.

Following the September hunger strike and significant pressure from the public and legislators in Sacramento, the CDCR announced that it would make changes to its gang validation procedure and would release a draft for review by stakeholders sometime in January. "The CDCR is clearly behind on their timeline. Meanwhile, prisoners continue to be validated largely due to association and baseless allegations effectively dooming them to indefinite SHU sentences without any means of challenging their cases," says Azadeh Zohrabi, of the Prisoner Hunger Strike Solidarity coalition. The stakeholders' review will reportedly involve the California Correctional and Peace Officers Association (CCPOA), state legislators and prison advocates.

Lawyers, families, and advocates will continue to monitor the situation at Corcoran.

15 Feb – Press Conference and Court House Rally For Bro. Shaka Shakur

WHAT: "Occupy the Bronx Courthouse"

WHEN: 9:00am, Wednesday, February 15th

WHERE: Bronx County Criminal Court, Part B (215 East 161st Street)

MORE:

Bro. Shaka, a coordinator of the Peoples Survival Program in Harlem was arrested at work after a taskforce of police agents raided his apartment in the Bronx with a baseless warrant. In the course of the raid the police also took the opportunity to violate the home of veteran Black Panther Cyril "Bullwhip" Innis under the guise of an alleged search for illegal weapons.

Save The Date and come out on Wednesday, February 15, 2012 as we collectively "Occupy The Bronx Courthouse" in support of those who actively fight against Police Terror by the NYPD.

Additionally, Thanks to the very successful fundraising event organized by CEMOTAP; We now only need a balance of \$2,500.00 to cover the legal expenses for Bro. Shaka Shakur.

For those who were unable to attend this community fundraiser and still wish to contribute to the legal expenses needed to win this case; We ask that you please make out your check or money order payable to our attorney Michael W. Warren with a notation for the Shaka Shakur Defense Fund and to then Mail Your Support Contribution To:

Michael W. Warren, P.C.
580 Washington Avenue
Brooklyn, New York 11238

20 Feb – Occupy 4 Prisoners

WHAT: MASS ACTION AGAINST THE PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX

WHEN: 2:00pm, Monday, February 20th

WHERE: Lincoln Correctional Facility – 31 West 110th Street New York, New York

MORE:

Occupy Oakland sent out a call for a national Occupy day of protest against the prison system and in support of prisoners - with a special mention of political prisoners. Here in NYC, that call was taken up by the prison solidarity group, part of the people of color group of Occupy Wall Street. We were quickly joined by people from other OWS working groups, as well as representatives of some NYC prison groups.

The Prisoner Support Working Group of Occupy Wall Street answers Occupy Oakland's call to action and march in solidarity with the California Pelican Bay hunger strike, with brothers and sisters who are dispossessed by the criminal INJUSTICE system, and with political prisoners everywhere.

17 Mar - Love & Struggle Book Release Party

WHAT: NYC Release Party for David Gilbert's *Love and Struggle*

WHEN: 7:00-10:00pm, Saturday, March 17th

WHERE: Bluestocking – 172 Allen Street New York, New York 10002

COST: FREE, copies of the book will be for sale at the event

MORE:

Join David Gilbert's long time comrades, Terry Bisson and Dan Berger as they read from [*Love and Struggle: My Life in SDS, the Weather Underground, and Beyond*](#) and discusses David's life, politics, and what David's experience and activism can teach today's Left.

This is the NYC book release party- and an event not to be missed.

One of America's most celebrated political prisoners since his appearance in the Academy Award nominated film, *The Weather Underground*, David Gilbert is also the author of *No Surrender*, a book of essays on politics and history. He can be reached at NY's Clinton Prison as 83-A-6158.